

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-5, 14, 16 and 18-20 remain in this application. Claim 2 was merged into independent claim 1 and claim 2 was subsequently canceled. Claim 15 was merged into independent claim 14 and claim 15 was subsequently canceled.

The examiner has indicated that claims 2-3, 15, 18, and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 6-13, 17 and 21-27 have been canceled since they were withdrawn from consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b).

In view of the examiner's earlier restrictions, applicant retains the right to present claims 6-13, 17 and 21-27 in a divisional application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1, 4, 5, 14, 16 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cheng et al. (USPN 6,492,208) is requested, in light of the following arguments.

Reconsideration of the objection of claim 1 because claim 1 was narrowed by merging allowable claim 2 into independent claim 1. Claim 1 having been narrowed is now believed patentable.

Claim 2 was canceled, having been merged into claim 1. The objection to claim 2 is therefore moot.

As argued above, independent claim 1 is believed patentable, therefore, dependent claims 3-5 are also believed patentable.

Reconsideration of the objection of claim 14 because claim 14 was narrowed by merging allowable claim 15 into independent claim 14. Claim 14 having been narrowed is now believed patentable.

Claim 15 was canceled, having been merged into claim 14. The objection to claim 15 is therefore moot.

As argued above, independent claim 14 is believed patentable, therefore, dependent claims 16, and 18-20 are also believed patentable.

All claims are now believed to be allowable.

Appl. No. 10/662,673
Amdt. dated May 26, 2005
Reply to Office action of May 5, 2005

It is requested that should Examiner Mandala not find that the Claims are now Allowable that the Examiner please call the undersigned attorney at (845) 452-5863, to overcome any problems preventing allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SBA', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stephen B. Ackerman, Reg # 37,761